

extent of the *symphysis menti*. In the form of the incisors, the more contracted palate, the great extent of the *symphysis menti*, and in fact in most of the points of dissimilarity, between the skull of the present animal and that of *Mus decumanus*, here pointed out, it will be perceived, there is an approach made to the *Arvicolide*.

The dimensions of the skull (so far as an imperfect specimen will allow of their being taken) are as follows:—

	In.	Lines.
Distance between front of incisors, (upper jaw) and the first molar tooth	0	8
Longitudinal extent of the three molars on either side, taken together	0	4½
Length of nasal bones	0	7½
— of incisive foramina	0	4½
Width between orbits	0	2½
Length of ramus of lower jaw	1	1½

Fig. 3, c, Plate 33, represents the molar teeth of the upper jaw. Fig. 3, d, those of the upper jaw.

"This rat was caught at Bahia Blanca where the plains of Patagonia begin to blend into the more fertile region of the Pampas. It lived in holes amongst the tussocks of rushes, on the borders of a small, still, brook; in its manner of diving and aquatic habits it closely resembled the English water-rat, (*Arvicola amphibius*.)"—D.

When at Paris I examined what I believe to be the original *Mus Braziliensis*, since the specimen was labelled "*Rat de Brazil St. Hilaire, 1818.*" It agrees perfectly with the present animal excepting in being rather smaller, the length from the nose to the tail being 7 inches and 4 lines—the length of the tail is 7 inches 9 lines, and that of the tarsus is 1 inch 11 lines; this difference in the length of the body may arise from difference of age, or even of sex. In the Paris Museum I saw what appeared to me to be a variety of the same species in which the under parts of the body are white.

I have been minute in my description of the *Mus Braziliensis*, since it is confounded by Desmarest, Fischer and Lesson with the *Rat troisieme* or *Rat Angouya* of Azara, which I believe to be a very different animal. The description given by the authors just mentioned are taken from Azara, who gives the following characters to distinguish the Rat Angouya: "Du museau à la queue, et sur les côtés du corps tout est brun-cannelle, parceque les poils ont une petite pointe cannelle; puis, ils sont obscurs et enfin blanc vers las peau. Toute la partie inférieure de l'animal est blanchâtre, plus claire sous la tête, et plus foncée entre les jambes de devant; le pelage est doux, très-serré, et le poil, qui est à la racine de l'oreille, cache le conduit de celle-ci."

	In.	Lines.		In.	Lines.
Length from nose to root of tail (English measure)	6	0	Length of ears	0	9½
of tail	6	6½	of tarsus (the claws included)	1	3½

It appears from this description that the *Mus Angouya* is a smaller animal, and differs both in colouring and proportions from the *Mus Braziliensis*. Brandt has figured and described a rat under the name of *Mus Angouya*, which in many respects agrees better with Azara's description; there are, however, discrepancies in the dimensions.

22. MUS MICROPUS.

PLATE XX.

Mus micropus, Waterh., Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London for February 1837, p. 17.

M. supra fuscus; subtus cinerescens-albus, pallide flavo tinctus; pedibus pilis sordide albis tectis, antipedibus parvulis; auribus parvulis; caudâ, quoad longitudinem, corpus ferè æquante, supra fuscâ, subtus sordide albâ.

DESCRIPTION.—Form stout, ears rather small, tail nearly equal to the body in length, fur very long and moderately soft, general colour of the upper parts of head and body, brown; of the sides of the body grayish, faintly washed with yellow, of the under parts grayish white, faintly tinted with yellow; hair covering the upper surface of the feet dirty white; on the tarsus there is a very slight yellow tint; ears well clothed with hairs, those on the inner side chiefly of a yellow colour; tail above, dusky brown; beneath dirty white: hairs of moustaches black at the base and grayish at the apex; incisors pale yellow: hairs of the back deep gray at the base, annulated with brownish yellow near the apex, and dusky at the apex; longer hairs dusky black; hairs of the belly deep gray at the base and broadly tipped with yellowish white.

	In.	Lines.		In.	Lines.
Length from nose to root of tail	6	0	Length of tarsus (claws included)	1	0½
of tail	3	8	of ear	0	6
from nose to ear	1	4			

Habitat, Santa Cruz, Patagonia, (*April*.)